

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 13, 14 and 17 have been amended. Claims 23-47 have been newly added.

Generally, new claims 23-44 correspond, respectively, to claims 1-22, but, for example, are written without means plus function language.

New claims 45-47 are also added. Support of these new claims is found, for example, in FIG. 1.

Accordingly, claims 1-45 are pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-13, 14 AND 17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The claims are amended to overcome the rejection.

III. THE OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner asserts that the third polarization means of claim 16 is not shown in the figures. Fig. 1 of the present invention shows a "third polarizing unit," item 18. Proper support for such item can be found in the specification at least at page 11, lines 16-17, and page 15, lines 27-28. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

IV. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 AND 13-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TERAHARA

Claims 1 and 18 recite, amongst other novel elements, "light intensity detecting means for detecting light from said acoustic optical tunable filter," and "radio-frequency signal **controlling means** for controlling said radio-frequency signal generating means so as **to select** light of a predetermined **wavelength** in accordance with an output of said light intensity detecting means."

Claim 14 recites, amongst other novel elements, "light intensity detecting means for detecting light from said AOTF," and "radio-frequency signal **control means** for controlling said radio-frequency signal generating means so as **to select** light of a predetermined **wavelength** in accordance with an output of said light intensity detecting means."

The Office Action relies upon Terahara for such teachings. Applicants respectfully

traverse such rejection for the following reasons. Terahara appears to teach, as illustrated in FIG. 1 for example, modulating optical signals with the RF signal source and the optical RF transmitter, wherein the frequency of the signal to be modulated is the same as the RF frequency to drive the AOTF provided at a remote place. Thereafter, the modulated optical signal is received at the optical RF receiver, and **only** the **RF frequency** component that drives the AOTF is **selected**, and the control/drive circuit drives the AOTF. That is, Terahara can send information on the RF frequency needed to drive the AOTF provided at a remote place, by superimposing the frequency to the main data signal and sending it from the transmitting side. However, this does not assure that the RF frequency is at its optimum value, because the wavelengths that the AOTF selects greatly vary according to the temperature. Accordingly, Terahara fails to provide some type of function to control what wavelengths are selected by the AOTF.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 1, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because Terahara fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1, 14 and 18.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-12, 15-16, and 19 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claims 1, 14 and 18, respectively, and the reasons set forth above.

Regarding independent claims 13 and 17, Terahara, also fails to teach or suggest the novel features recited in these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should also be withdrawn because Terahara fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 13 and 17.

V. THE REJECTION OF CLAIM 9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TERAHARA IN VIEW OF ARONSON

Claim 9 depends upon claim 1 and as discussed above, Terahara fails to teach or suggest the novel features recited in independent claim 1, and hence dependent claim 9.

Aronson fails to cure the deficiencies of Terahara.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because the combination of Terahara in view of Aronson, fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, upon which claim 9 depends from.

VI. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 20-22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING
UNPATENTABLE OVER TERAHARA IN VIEW OF ROBINSON

Claims 20 and 22, recite amongst other novel elements, "radio-frequency signal controlling means for controlling said radio-frequency signal generating means so as to select light of a predetermined wavelength in accordance with the output of said light intensity detecting means."

Terahara fails to teach or suggest these features.

Robinson fails to cure the deficiency of Terahara.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because the combination of Terahara in view of Robinson, fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 20 and 22.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 21 is allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 20, and the reasons set forth above.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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